

Arizona Historical Society,
Tucson, AZ

The following notes are found in the Woodward Collection (manuscript section) and are described in the overall index for the box containing them as "Field Notes, Santa Rosa Island - not Woodward's" - not Arthur Woodward's at any rate. Reviewing Woodward's notes for this same trip, it is clear that these notes were written by Barbara Loomis, at the time a student of Woodward's. (What is it about Santa Rosa Island?). The notes written on small sheets of approx 5x7 paper, tied together with string. They document the photos in the Woodward album of SRI, labeled as "Marion's negatives," and describe events of Santa Rosa Island from later November through mid December, 1941

Santa Rosa Island

November - December 1941

Left L.A. in Mr. Woodward's car about 3:45 P.M. with Marion and A. W. Got to Hueneme about 6:20 and began looking for the Fish and Game boat "Yellowtail." Capt. John Barrey in charge and ? Swenson as his crew. First place we tried there was only a very decrepit old man in evidence. He could not tell anything and puttered about preventing Mr. Woodward from turning around for five minutes - Next place down the line. Mr. Woodward vanished into a lighted shed. Presently same old man came puttering along and also vanished inside. Mr. Woodward came out with no news of the "Yellowtail" and we started for Oxnard to find accommodations but decided to make one more try at finding the "Yellowtail" on the other side of the harbor so we turned back and went till we saw we would have to ask exact directions about likely moorings or docks - we stopped by a lighted store and just as we were slowing down we spied a decrepit figure puttering long just ahead and felt fairly sure of another effort to obtain information jinxed - The old man could not possibly have got clear round the harbor, but there he was - Mr. Woodward could not learn anything so he went ahead to an obvious left turn toward the water - We landed at the yacht basin, where to our pleasure and surprise there was no decrepit old figure in evidence - There Mr. Woodward finally found the "Yellowtail" all locked up with our baggage inside so that he had to do without his overnight bag, accidentally left inside. to go up by truck - We then went to the Hotel Hueneme.

Saturday, Nov. 22nd

Captain Barry said he had orders not to take the "Yellowtail" out because of high seas following the blow of Thursday. The "Marlin," sister of the "Yellowtail" was lost at Catalina on Thanksgiving - The two men went ashore for dinner, leaving her anchored bow and stern - Afterwards they could not get back to her - sea too high to launch the skiff, so they had to watch her break loose and go ashore where she pounded to pieces, then slipped off into deep

water and was lost. One engine was later salvaged but nothing else. (She had two.) We drove to Santa Barbara in the P.M. with "Johnney" Barry and Swenson in the P.M. after a quick spin the Yellowtail before lunch, while she got gas - went to bed early - Mr. Woodward sleeping on the boat.

Sunday, Nov. 23rd

Mr. Woodward came for us at 5:15 - We were not ready till a quarter to six - We got away about 6 and all went well till we got as far as the start of the channel by Anacapa Island.

There wind and sea came so strong that Captain Barry concluded to turn back, but he no sooner faced around than the waves began to tie the Yellowtail in knots, so he turned and went along parallel with Santa Cruz till nearly the northern point where it was decided that the sea was beating straight into Becher's Bay on Santa Rosa - so we turned back for that day at least - Marion and Mr. Woodward stretched out on the bunks while I stayed up front and later went back with the captain to look out the stern - Presently Marion and Mr. Woodward came back both white as sheets - they picked up some color before long - We loafed about and went to Oxnard for supper.

(circled insert from following page - to go here) We finally went to Ventura to Shadow of the Thin Man and Jane Withers in xxx [Luk Deb??] (or something)

Monday, Nov. 24

We were supposed to leave at 5:30, then 7 A.M. and actually did not leave at all We poked about the docks - spending most of our time on the Vaquero and watching the merchant officer's training ship "American Sailor" which got jammed in the Channel first aground, then against Sargeant's little oil dock - lines were strung to the main dock and she was hauled back across the harbor to it - She remained there till 3:30 A.M. when the wind suddenly died down and changed to west (had been east and up to 55 Miles per hour) We talked to Captain Allan of the Vaquero and Mr. Vail owner of Santa Rosa and also to Mr. Stanton owner of Santa Cruz - whose little schooner of the same name was just ahead of the Vaquero and also had to move so the American Sailor could pull in at the end - the Sailor shipped off about 4 p.m. We were loafing on the Yellowtail [insert came from this point]

At supper at "Tofss" [sic??], Captain Barry came in and set 6:30 as leaving time for Tuesday -

Tuesday, Nov 25th, 1941

left about 6:45 went through Anacapa - Santa Cruz Channel and landed at Becher's Bay beyond the other end of Santa Cruz around nine. Got lunch and left for the site about 25 to one - We did not get there till about 2 p.m. then A.W. and I walked to site nearly at Skunk Point and surface collected - found two drills, a scraper

and a projectile point (one drill mine). Got home dog tired to good supper cooked by little Mrs. (Carol) Stieger wife of "Kenny" Stieger who is catching foxes and skunks for study. Foxes are so thick they skitter along just ahead of me, bouncing in the grass. Every now and then he would stop and look at me.

Bill Fletcher (fossil elephants) says Kenny and Carol set a line of traps on the hill for mice and that the mice gathered around as soon as the bait can was opened and dove in as soon as the traps were set. (Poor little buggers) There must be plenty to seelsport[sic] the foxes - Bill also says he caught six in the dining room kitchen and our room one night -

Wed - 26th

Had a very bad night and the next day. Stayed in camp and went to bed before supper. Took a sulphanilamide all day It knocked me a green discharge and gave me a rotten headache - Had another last night what with headache and cough -

Kenney and Carol got two skunks and a fox from their traps and A. skinned the skunks in the afternoon. Result terrific.

Woodward, Marion and Bill returned filthy and tired in the eve - W with some points from further along Skunk Point.

Thursday 27

Marion in bed with cold Bill, Woodward and I walked to Skunk Point - nearly finished me but I made it - one drill, one pitted hammer stone for me.

Woodward:

- knives
- barbs (bone- smooth rounded)
- points notched and straight
- drills

Saw three bald eagles - half dozen foxes (pictures of one) about 10 deer many crows and several seals and sea lions and 1/2 dozen skunks.

Rogers found no pitted hammer stones on Santa Rosa.

Friday - Nov 28, 1944

seafaring?

I stayed in camp after planning to go on the seefaline[sic] photography expedition to Skunk Point - felt awfully shaky for some reason whether strep or sulphanilamide I was not sure - mostly the latter I think.

In A.M. visited the cave behind the ranch then the much pot hunted site across the stream from it. In the P.M. Marion and I dug it a little - found one bead blank, one chip drill (mine) and three

beads (surface - Marion) A.W. returned with of couple of dozen drills, points and scrapers - no shellfish hooks.

barbs etc. probably took their places

During supper tonight there were sounds outside and Juan Ayllon came in - just curious and wanting to call. We conversed in English and Spanish for a while - he has been here 23 years. Bill has a tail and his quitting on the 23rd anniversary of his coming here - that was last week and turning up two days later for work

Marion has just celebrated that we have about 80 feet of eggs left

Saturday 29th

About 4 A.M. a storm broke - rain and cold east wind. I heard them covering the supplies for the elephant camp and stayed strong[?] and threw a tarpaulin over Marion's tent - in the open behind his tent. The little schooner Santa Cruz was in with some cattle but we did not expect any Fish and Game boat. Lefe[?] had seen lights off the landing and thought they were the Santa Cruz, low and behold when dawn broke there was the Scofield - big fish and game boat. About 8 they landed baggage in a skiff, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Willett and Jack Coffey a high school boy and Victor Case, an attendant at the museum - looked about 45 - Coffey and Case for the elephant camp. It rained and blew till night when the wind died. Arthur Woodward took the skiff on its last trip to the Scofield and left for the museum again.

Sunday - 30th

Beautiful warm day. We went to the site intending to move to the site above the black rock point And [with] Bill and Jack and Victor to carry the stuff. But we did not find enough there and so dug at our site instead. About 18" deep we struck whale bone and stone a sort of pavement. At first sight though some [is] superimposed

About two feet inland Case struck one of the discs found between the vertebrae.

Numerous sea mammal bones

two good jaws - also fish and bird bones

two possible dog jaws

two fish jaws

two bone awls and one split long bone with a circular incised line around one end about 18" deep many mussels and some barnacles - very few sea urchins - about three ... shell limpets occasional key hole limpets

Monday Dec 1

Spent in camp, cataloguing. Kenny and Carol left in the Santa Cruz before breakfast. Bill and Victor and Jack left with three pack horses their riding horses, plus two mounted riders (Juan and Joe).

We soon found they had forgotten the bread. Bill came back about 4 P.M. with the riders for it.

Tuesday Dec 2nd

Bill started his 12 miles afoot with a heavy pack. [We]Returned to the dig. Ora and George come with us as far as the Torrey Pines, then stopped and came on later. We worked around our whale bone structure, finding nothing else. Wind was coming from the east and rain promised for Wednesday so we hopped to get the things out, but failed to finish. [We] took a quick swim on the way home - very "shrimpy." Hundreds of small shrimps washed ashore last Friday - quite deadish now with gulls feasting on them.

Mrs. Hayse came in for a little while in the evening. They have ranched in Colorado near Garland and other places.

Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, 1941.

Started to rain during the night. I put on the Arequipa [Peruvian]poncho and helped Marion carry the bed in. Our room started springing leaks all over and I spent most of the time trying to dodge them thereafter. The day was cold and rainy. We got up late and spent the day cataloguing them - slept from lunch time till three. My sinus (left) on the war path. (I went with Marion over to the dehorning chute - a dreary business in the rain in the A.M.)

Thursday, Dec. 4th, 1941

Left early about 8:15 for Water Canyon. Took the ridge to the left and followed it to the first big bend of the canyon where the country suddenly turned to green rolling hills. We followed the bench on the left (south) side to the entrance of a big side canyon from the north. There we found a site much tramped

(circled comment) Deer brought in about 1929 - inc. White Siberian deer and elk from Utah about 4000 head of cattle (in 1939) A. Woodward 1939 notes

by cattle but indubitable.

Found a drill (Juan Ayllon) (broken) and a white pendant like bone but heavy and hard as ivory - 5 little dots incised - (also broken). We followed this canon up the right[crossed out] left (south) and about a quarter of a mile above came on a ridge and hill with a fence down the middle of the top. About 3/4 of a mile above this is a place where a small gully has cut through a 20 inch midden full of mussels and abalone, sea urchins, olivella and barnacles etc., also fish bones and sea mammal bones. One tarred abalone taken from this site.

We followed the stream on up about another half mile, then turned back at a quarter to four. Reached the Big Bend where the green

hills ended about 5 and proceeded on^e down stream. It grew narrow and rocky. Just at the end of the open part we was four elk then some deer. It grew dark and we could see the heads of deer in two and threes sketched on the skyline on every ridge. We soon had to climb out of the canon because of bad footing and failing light. We decided to get on the ridge and follow them to the sea, easier said than done. The moon came up a little after 6 and helped a lot but we were terribly stiff and tired before we got in. About 7:30 to find the Willetts anxious and angry. George soon forgave us but Ora fed us chili and beans in stiff silence. He has no strength and had worried about searching for us, had wondered about getting crew of ranchers etc. She was annoyed with use for worrying him.

Friday, Dec. 5th

Went to the dig and took out whale bone. We Found nothing under it - but light ashy sand. followed by hard black dirt.

Saturday, Dec 6th, 1941

We tried digging by the trail and found nothing but shells and animal bones. Took a short try at the west end of our whale bone ledge- still no luck to speak of.

About three we decided we wanted a swim and started to take it, but noticed a cow puncher who had just come over the Skunk Point ridge.

He stopped and just sat on his horse for nearly an hour near his small herd, so we started back and went down to the beach just south of Black Rock Point, well out of sight of the trail. We were started towards our swim - Marion dusty and ecstatic- had on nothing at all, dancing on the sand - let out a sudden yelp -"Barby - There's a cow puncher!!" and we both raced for the cave in the cliffs. I grabbed my jeans and squeezed them on, dashed for

(circled comment)

Sunday Dec 7th: 1941

Japan bombed Manila and Honolulu. Mobilization began immediately - All leaves canceled
(end of comment)

clothes just out side, then went out for a look. There was a head traveling along the bluff just above our cave. It looked like Juan but might have been some one else. Marion finished dressing and scrambled up to see who was there. Three punchers were on the bluff just north and the whole in the vicinity. Marion inquired sarcastically if they had lost their cattle. They replied that they had lost some. A voice asked if we wanted a ride home - Marion said "no thanks." Then they asked if we were coming to the dance. Marion asked what dance and were told at the Ranch House - tonight. Marion said "We'll see-" We followed their cattle home and the question and answer were repeated just before we got in.

George Hayse and his wife came to call in the evening making it obvious that the "dance" was bogus - The first thing he said was that they had lost two calves on the bluffs that afternoon. The conversation then went on to both Mr. and Mrs. Hayse offered [???] and some mention was made of sea baths. We had not told the Willetts and had not seen Hayse that afternoon but it became obvious that he had been present. We found later that he told Mr. that he saw us and threw a rock to scare us off before the rest got there. We did not see any rock.

Sunday Dec 7th

We were very tired and stayed around camp. In the A.M. we watched the punchers shearing hair off around the cattle's horn preparatory to dehorning. Asking what next, we got evasive answers, relative to mountain oysters, which meant nothing to us till they started roping calves and turning the little bulls into little steers. Some had already been done and Juan capered round yelling "No tiene huevos, No tiene huevos." In the afternoon I took the ridge next south of Elderberry Canyon and went to Water Canon to hunt deer and elk with cameras. I saw a magnificent elk on a green bench by the stream but he got away long before I could get near him. I saw deer across the canon but the light was poor. I got down into a little park and saw what seemed to be a deer around a little knob. I sneaked carefully around the knob and a dark brown hog shot out like a cannonball. I got home about 5:10 with no pictures. About 6 P.M. we were listening to the radio when news came in that Japan had bombed the Hawaiian island and the Philippines specially Pearl Harbor on Oahu with 300 odd killed. Costa Rica declared war and Congress convened by plane. Britain declared her intention to go to war against Japan as soon as the U.S. did.

Monday, Dec. 8th

We got up at six intending to go to Skunk Point. About 6:45 Mr. Smith offered to guide us to the site back of Carrington on the way to Lobos. He produced one horse and I walked to the top of the ridge then mounted "Beathona" behind Marion. Mr. Smith took us to an extensive site in bush keeping hundreds of deer around - We prospected around till about 1 PM when it began to rain. I found 1 drill and 1 bead and 1 petrified vertebra of a sea mammal perhaps Miocene. Marion found two pestles and two beads.

Started a collection of shells with Mr. Willett identifying.

Talk of the war all day. George Hayse has been ordered not to use the radio telephone. Fish and Game boats are reported taken over by the government. The West Coast radio stations are off- San Pedro district blacked out. San Francisco blacked out. All Western Canada blacked out. We suppose we will get transportation out- but we do not know. We rode with Juan and Pedro over to Lobos Pasture for the work team. Hugh tried to make it himself and Marion only but Hayse spiked that sending Joe, Juan and asking if I would like to go.

Joe was very nice about guiding us but joking about putting us on as punchers and all of us living on tame and wild meat if we do not get off the island right away.

Canada and most of the American republics except Argentina and Chile declared war on Japan. It is reported that the planes attacking Honolulu and Manila had swastika insignia as well as the rising sun. German pilots are said to have carried out the attack.

Australia had declared war Cuba will declare war against Germany and Italy as well as Japan etc.

We looked at the radio telephone this afternoon - It is installed in the barn in a big solid whale boat - The ship's radio station certificate on the wall behind it-

Tuesday, Dec 9th 1941

We were set to go to Skunk Point, but did not as we woke at 5:30 to heavy rain on the roof. However, it nearly showered all day and was sometimes almost sunny - when it was not drizzling - We set up Elderberry Creek Narrows and field[?] of shallow rock shelters - sometimes with smoke blackened roofs. Finally we climbed up and worked over towards Lobos Canyon. We thought - We presently looked west down a valley between green sloping hills and an unearthly green flat bench at the bottom. with a stream deep cut and winding down the center. The banks perpendicular and very black - while we were looking a rider appeared, leading a pack horse out of the far end. Three more soon followed with another pack horse and a sixth horse loose. We could hear their voices plainly but could not attract their attention with our wildest yelps. They finally came up on the hill near us and turned out to be Juan and Hugh and Case.

Hugh and Case came over to us and we found we were looking down on Canon Verde - too far over - I must go back over Cow Canon to Lobos - we went down the bread[?] and between Cow and Lobos Canons to the beach. I was noticing some good looking flint when I saw a large fine spear head - too good to be true - next another slightly smaller - A minute later Marion found two more arrow points - We found a great deal more chipped flint - I found a deep cut between Cow and Lobos but nearer Lobos a skeleton (no skull) had fallen out of the north bank and more bones were sticking out of it. It consisted of a black strata about a foot thick with of yellow sands earth washed over it (2" to about 8"). Toward Cow Canon the black strata has very little shell but where the washed out on the seaward slope there are a mass of chipped flint. Towards Lobos ~~no~~ human bones do no appear but the shell deposit is much thicker. A bone awl came out from this and a good deal of chipped flint

Canon Verde photos

We left about 3 P.M. and did not get up on the ridge till 3:30 got to Lobos field where the colts run - Saw Bill and Jack going along the far ridge(cont p. 16)

The black cultural deposit (about a foot) fades out towards the bottom. It has a very sharp top line

Human bones in the cut on the Cow Canon side. Five spear points towards the Cow Canon side even further west on the beach. Perhaps from burials or even a burial.

No skull with the skeleton that fell out of the bank - No skulls in evidence

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Finds - beads
four tangless spear points
bone pry

Mr. Woodward's 1939 notes comment on the lack of complete store artifacts and of skeletons from this site especially and of skeletons from any site on this side of the island

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Again we could hear them but not attract their attention - We got back about 5 P.M. found the boys loaded down with Japanese net floats (glass), skulls (human). They report a tremendous cemetery with skeletons buried flexed on right side with left hand over left side of face. They report stratigraphy much disturbed - found many Pleistocene elephant deposits. Some mixed into supposedly Miocene deposits - a new horse in the bank below the Pleistocene elephants. Arnold cracked down with pneumonia and George Hayse asked for a plane by radiophone. The Coast Guard sent a boat

Wednesday Dec 10th

Rain - All seven of us reading and working in the kitchen and listening to the radio - mostly War of course

Jap planes at San Francisco last night but no bombs dropped. Whole coast blacked out. Around midnight British battleships "Prince of Wales" (Churchill and Roosevelt meeting) and "Repulse" sunk off Malaysia. Japs trying to land near Manila. Fighting over Philippines continuing.

George Willett skinning and Ora packing as much food as possible and everyone packing as much material as possible.

George Hayse came over for a while - He is a beautiful example of cow boy lingo. Speaking of his efforts to poison ravens, he said, "They're the coyotiest birds to poison." It seems they occasionally kill cattle calves weak from dehorning or shipping over. They peck holes in them and literally eat them alive. Eagles carry off young deer.

In regard to breaking young horses he says they do it when they get around to it or ship them off island - He says there were two young fellows who were going to do it, but they got itching feet - They were put to weeding glorse[sic] guessed the handles of their hoes didn't fit their hands very well.

The radio reports a big battle near Hawaii and all afternoon the radio interrupted itself to say there would be no blackout without necessity and giving directions to be followed for a black out - which they repeated might come at any time - electricity will go off and people should have flash-lights and candles and heavy curtains for windows. Black out to be a 2 minute fluctuating siren and all clear a steady 2 minute whistle During last nights San Pedro black out all signs and lights went out except one huge lurid[?] Chamber of Commerce sign reading "Welcome to Los Angeles"

Thursday Dec 11th

The day dawned partly clear and we decided to take the Skunk Point trip - Started about 8 with Case and Jack Coffey to carry equipment back from our dig - I climbed after Torrey pine pictures - got them. Two canons beyond the cut in gray mossy rock with pools in it Two eagle's nests are there in easily climbable pines. I did not take time to look - Also the eagle squeaked at me as if it might make trouble.

We then left the boys and went on around Skunk Point

circled comment Mussolini declared war on the U.S. and about noon the U S declared war on Germany and Italy.

Visited 17E under the point and went onto 11,12, 13, and 14 E sites - the latter the Bead Maker's site. Covered with Olivella shells, cut and whole and with small stone drills. Then we crossed the mouth of old ranch Canon with flock after flock of snow geese. We tried to get up on them but they already flew. took a few distant pictures. They crossed the canon to where we had been and sat on a ridge from which they suddenly flew the obvious course: - two boys strongly suggesting Fletcher and Coffey - We went on up Old Ranch Canon to the saddle near 5E where we crossed to the shore and were hailed from behind by Fletcher and Coffey - they had been with few feet of the geese and they had no camera. We got in just after dark. Friday, Dec. 12th

We packed all morning - Went to watch the men clipping cattle in the early afternoon

At 4 P.M. went over the ridge to Water Canon - Sat on the edge of the lower ridge and watched the elk come down to water and graze on the pastures by the stream - They were "sampling"[(scampering??)] all around me. I counted 15 in the "park" by the stream - A cow came quite close to me . It was a great sight. There were pigs scampering about on the opposite slope and deer. I tried a few movies.

Saturday Dec. 13, 1944

We started seriously looking for the boat about 10 - Nothing appeared. About 11:30 two high masts materialized beside Gull Rock. They came slowly into Becher's Bay and followed the shore line - came close into 5E, then Black Rock Point. The boys and George said "Oh - She is a fishing boat, not for us," and each bet each of us as soon to that effect - We were sure it was for us and proved right. The Santa Cruz pulled in about noon with intent to stay over till Sunday. Since they could not enter Port Hueneme after dark in war time. Art Woodward was aboard. We walked up to Water Canon again and down to the meadow. The half dozen elk grazing there left before we could get near them and no elk came, not even a whistle except one distant one as we were leaving. Art said something about rain checks. Jack Coffey also turned up as we were leaving, also in search of elk - Mr. Vail had come over as well.

Sunday Dec 15th "

Juan and Joe bagged four deer for Mr. Vail and we all got away about 11 - a cold foggy day of swells. We rolled along the Santa Cruz shore for 30 miles.